

A1 This patent application claims the priority of U.S. provisional patent application No. 60/164,985, filed November 11, 1999.

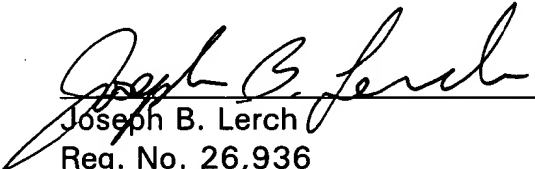
REMARKS

The application has been amended to recite that it claims the priority of a provisional application, as required by 37C.F.R. 1.78(a)(5).

Early examination on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Dated: November 19, 2001

Respectfully submitted,


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Serial No. 09/922,232

Preliminary Amendment